

**Amendments To The Claims:**

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1.-8. (canceled)

9. (new) An electromechanical switching device, comprising:

two fixed contacts,  
two movable contact elements each configured to interact with the fixed contacts; and  
a housing comprising a mounting side, wherein the housing viewed from above the mounting side is subdivided into first and second housing areas each adjoining a lengthwise side of the housing, wherein one of the movable contact elements and the associated fixed contact are located in each housing area, each housing area having a narrow partial housing area and an adjoining broad partial housing area, wherein the broad partial housing area of the first housing area is arranged adjacent to the narrow partial housing area of the second housing area, and the narrow partial housing area of the first housing area is arranged adjacent to the broad partial housing area of the second housing area, wherein the two movable contact elements are arranged and configured to be actuated by a first respectively second actuation force, the first and second actuation forces having opposing directions.

10. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 9, wherein the two housing areas are formed in an identical way but are mirrored around a geometrical vertical axis in the housing.

11. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 9, wherein at least one housing area contains an immediate-release actuator.

12. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 10, wherein at least one housing area contains an immediate-release actuator.

13. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 11, wherein a width of the immediate-release actuator is at least as large as half of a width of the housing.

14. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 12, wherein a width of the immediate-release actuator is at least as large as half of a width of the housing.

15. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 11, wherein the immediate-release actuator comprises a coil with a round cross-section.

16. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 13, wherein the immediate-release actuator comprises a coil with a round cross-section.

17. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 9, wherein at least one housing area contains a delayed-release actuator.

18. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 10, wherein at least one housing area contains a delayed-release actuator.

19. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 11, wherein at least one housing area contains a delayed-release actuator.

20. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 13, wherein at least one housing area contains a delayed-release actuator.

21. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 15, wherein at least one housing area contains a delayed-release actuator.

22. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 9, wherein the housing comprises more than two housing areas.

23. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the housing comprises more than two housing areas.

24. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 11, wherein the housing comprises more than two housing areas.

25. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 9, wherein the housing areas contain different circuit arrangements.

26. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 10, wherein the housing areas contain different circuit arrangements.

27. (new) The switching device in accordance with claim 11, wherein the housing areas contain different circuit arrangements.

28. (new) An electromechanical switching device with two movable contact elements, which each interact with a fixed contact, with a housing featuring a fixing side of a width, which, viewed from above the fixing side, is subdivided into two housing areas each adjoining one of the lengthwise sides, in which one of the movable contact elements as well as the associated fixed contact are located in each case, wherein each housing area has a narrow partial housing area and adjoining this a broad partial housing area, with the broad partial housing area of the first housing area being adjacent to the narrow partial housing area of the second housing area and the narrow partial housing area of the first housing area being adjacent to the broad partial housing area of the second housing area.